[Translation]

Shortage of Weapons with Forces

2398. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Military and Security Forces in Jammu and Kashmir have to face difficulties in fighting against terrorists due to shortage of sophisticated weapons; and

(b) if so, the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b). The Indian Army is equipped with weapons to carry out its conventional role. During the initial phase of militancy in J & K, the Army carried out its operations against militants with conventional weapons. However, some of these weapons were not ideally suited for anti-militant operations, since the militant groups operating in the Valley had started acquiring a wide spectrum of sophisticated weapons, like the AK series of rifles, and sniper rifles, which enabled them to generate high volume of rapid fire at close quarters. These weapons are reportedly being supplied by the ISI of Pakistan, with the objective of aiding and abetting terrorism in the State. With a view to effectively deal with the militants, steps have been taken to equip Army units operating in J & K with appropriate weapons. It has been decided to induct 5.56 mm series of weapons as a part of the modernisation plan of Indian Army. In addition, AK series of rifles and ammunitions, which are well suited to fight the militants have also been selectively inducted.

[English]

Irrigation Projects in M.P. and Bihar

2399. SHRIMATI CHHABILA ARVIND NETAM :
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals of irrigation projects received from the Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Bihar for approval during the last three years;

(b) the number of irrigation projects out of them approved; and

(c) the names of irrigation projects pending as on date and the time by which approval will be accorded to them?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) One new major irrigation project i.e. Upper Narmada Project has been received from Government of Madhya Pradesh during last 3 years. No new irrigation project has been received from the Government of Bihar during last three years.

(b) No irrigation project has been approved out of them.

(c) The names of irrigation projects pending as on date are as under :

Bihar

Major

1. Sone Canal Modernisation Phase-I
2. Punasi Reservoir
3. Subernarekha Multipurpose
4. Punpun Morhar Dardha irrigation

Medium

5. Kunduhat Reservoir

Madhya Pradesh

Major

1. Bansagar Unit-II (Canals)
2. Mahanadi Reservoir
3. Sind Phase-II
4. Bargi Multipurpose
5. Kolar Project
6. Thanwar Tank
7. Pench Diversion
8. Mahan
9. Omkareshwar Multipurpose
10. Rajghat Canal
11. Upper Narmada

Medium

12. Sutiapat Tank
13. Upper Beda
14. Uribagh

Though there is prescribed limit for appraisal of the project, the clearance is delayed due to the delay in complying with the observations of various Central Apprising Agencies and obtaining environment/forest rehabilitation and resettlement clearances by the State Government.

No Arms Deal

2400. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "No arms deals with any country inimical to India", as appeared in Times of India, dated October 31, 1996; and